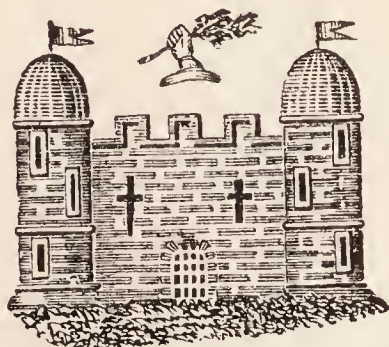


KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DEC. 31ST, 1900.

KNARESBOROUGH:
W. PARR, GENERAL AND COLOUR PRINTER, MARKET PLACE.

1901.

KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Medical Officer's
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

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KNARESBOROUGH,

March 5th, 1901.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have now the honour to lay before you my report for the year 1900.

The statistical backbone of these reports is certain tables required to be filled up for the Local Government Board, and this year these tables are of a much more complicated nature than formerly, necessitating much searching back and comparing with past years; and, in consequence, my report is later than I could have wished.

The total number of deaths registered during the year 1900 was 133, as against 132 in 1899. Of these 24 occurred in the Workhouse, leaving 109 for your district proper. This gives a death-rate of 23·1 per 1,000 of the population per annum.

The following tables compare the deaths and death-rates for three years:—

	Excluding Workhouse.	Including Workhouse.
1900.....	109	133
1899.....	105	132
1898.....	127	157

Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

1900.....	23·1	28·29
1899.....	22·3	28·08
1898.....	27·31	33·7

BIRTHS.

The births of 177 children—90 males and 87 females—were registered during the year, giving a birth-rate of 37·6 per 1,000 of the population. This is the highest birth-rate for nine years.

DEATHS.

The following table presents the deaths from preventable causes, compared with the two previous years:—

TABLE I.

	1900.	1899.	1898.
Small-pox	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlatina	1 ...	3 ...	1
Diphtheria	6 ...	1 ...	1
Membranous Croup ...		1 ...	6
Whooping Cough.....	0 ...	1 ...	1
Typhus Fever	0 ...	0 ...	0
Enteric (typhoid) Fever	0 ...	2 ...	0
Measles	0 ...	3 ...	1
Diarrhœa	10 ...	5 ...	5
Erysipelas	1 ...	0 ...	0
Phthisis	9 ...	14 ...	12

The total number of deaths from preventable causes was 27, as against 30 in 1899, and 27 in 1898. There is a distinct reduction in the number of deaths from Phthisis, and in spite of the presence in the summer of an epidemic of Diphtheria, only six deaths are ascribed to that complaint. The total number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 24, with, as already stated, 6 deaths. The disease had been epidemic in Starbeck for some time before it appeared here, and no doubt was imported by children from Starbeck attending the Castle Yard and Roman Catholic Schools, for the first cases occurred in these schools. At my request you closed the schools a week before the summer holidays, and they were kept closed for a week after the holidays should have ended, and to this I attribute the smallness of the epidemic. I also forbade children who had had the disease, however mildly, to return to school for six weeks from date of illness.

This was the only epidemic during the year which necessitated the closing of the schools.

I now present another table showing deaths from non-preventable causes, and comparing them with two previous years.

TABLE II.

	1900.	1899.	1898.
Pneumonia and Bronchitis...	15	11	14
Heart Disease	19	9	7
Diseases of Kidneys	0	0	1
Diseases of Liver.....	0	2	4
Diseases of Brain and Ner- vous System	0	10	12
Cancer	6	7	8
Alcoholism	2	3	0
Senile Decay.....	20	6	11
Injuries and Accidents	3	5	3
Suicides.....	2	0	0
Convulsions	6	0	0

From this it appears that the increase in number of deaths in 1900 was due to a considerable increase in deaths from chest diseases, other than Phthisis, Heart Disease, and Senile Decay.

The following table divides the deaths according to ages :—

TABLE III.

The ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	36
„ over 1 year and under 5 years.....	8
„ „ 5 years „ 15 „	6
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „	2
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „	34
„ „ 65 and upwards	47

The infant death-rate, *i.e.*, under one year of age, is still very high; in fact, is the highest for four years, and gives a death-rate per 1,000 births registered of 203, as against 201·21 in 1899.

PART II.

SANITARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

Printed Notices for Abatement of Nuisances	9
Written „ „ „ „	14
New Water Closets... ..	8
Old Ashpits done away with, as insanitary	4
New Privies and Ashpits	7
Old Privies put into Sanitary Condition... ..	8
Moveable Receptacles for Ashes	16
New Drains or old ones relaid	13
Privies converted into Water Closets	4
New Gullies in Streets to replace old ones	5
Old Gullies done away with	2
New Ashpit to Water Closet	1
New Sewers to replace old ones	2
Old Street Gullies cemented round	1
Private „ „ „ „	10
Old Street Gullies reconstructed	2
Old Water Closets put into Sanitary Condition	4
Old Buildings pulled down... ..	2
Sink Pipes cut off and made to discharge into Gullies	8
Tons of Night Soil removed	1714
Street Sweepings (loads)	250
Tons of Sludge from Street Grates	70
Notices outstanding, December 31st, 1900	20

Ten gullies in private yards—the houses being without slopstones—which had previously been surrounded by uneven cobbles, in which slops thrown at the gulley collected and became a nuisance, have been by your order cemented round for a distance of from two to three feet, and in such a way that the slops can drain into the gulley. This has been a useful improvement.

The weekly markets have been regularly inspected, and no complaints have arisen out of the articles there exposed for sale. The slaughter-houses have been reported by the Inspector as being as satisfactory as a number of private slaughter-houses, (in many cases ill-adapted for the purpose for which they are used,) can be. The common lodging-houses have been inspected by him regularly, and he has not found any complaint to make. A few houses have been closed by your order as unfit for habitation.

The site for an Infectious Diseases Hospital, in conjunction with Harrogate, has at last been fixed upon. We have successfully averted the danger of having the Infectious Isolation Hospital placed upon the banks of the Nidd near our intake of drinking water.

PART III.

Lines upon which Improvement may move.

Many yards still remain in the town which are paved, and very badly and unevenly paved, with cobbles. This leads to the collection of slops and refuse in the hollows and among the cobbles, and, therefore, these yards should be asphalted, or repaved and better paved, and the gullies concreted round, so that the slops thrown at them may flow into the gullies instead of, as at present, collecting in stinking pools.

There are still many ashpits to privies in the town which are not in a sanitary condition. A great many w.c's have been substituted for privies during the past few years, and this should be continued in many more instances.

The adoption of special Bye-laws giving the Council more power over dairies and purveyors of milk, would be a benefit to the town.

The establishment of a public slaughter-house would, as I have remarked in previous reports, be a great improvement upon the present system of private slaughter-houses, many of them ill-adapted for the purpose to which they are put.

The removal of the fortnightly Cattle Markets from the public streets would add greatly to the comfort, convenience, and well-being of the inhabitants.

Sixteen moveable receptacles for ashes have been substituted for ashpits, and the extension of this plan to all houses, along with a system of frequent removal of the ashes therein, would be a great benefit to the public health.

Copies of this report will be forwarded to the Local Government Board and also to the County Council.

Tables from the Local Government Board and County Council are appended to this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IAN D. MACKAY, B.A., M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To

THE KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TABLE 1.

YEAR.	Population Estimated to Middle of Each Year.	BIRTHS.		Deaths under 1 Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Number.	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1892	4549	124	26.6	13	105	113	24.3	18
1893	4574	138	30.1	23	167	137	29.4	31
1894	4540	132	29.07	19	144	106	23.1	15
1895	4507	150	32.2	36	233	121	26.02	31
1896	4475	147	31.5	16	109	94	21.0	11
1897	4442	150	32.2	23	153.3	117	25.1	17
1898	4410	153	34.7	33	229	151	29.0	24
1899	4700	166	35.3	33	201.12	132	28.08	27
Averages for years 1892-1899.	4532	145	31.4	28.2	167.6	121.3	25.7	21.7
1900	4700	177	37.6	36	203	133	28.29	24